

What is claimed is:

1. A roller bearing assembly comprising at least one raceway member prepared from a steel plate and a plurality of rollers; and
wherein at least a raceway surface of said at least one raceway member is subjected to induction hardening and tempering.
2. The roller bearing assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the raceway member is a shell type outer race having its opposite ends formed with annular collars and wherein the raceway surface of the outer race and an inner surface of one of the annular collars are subjected to the induction hardening and tempering.
3. The roller bearing assembly as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the raceway surface of the outer race has a hardness not lower than HV 653 and an inner surface of the other annular collar has a hardness not higher than HV 300.
4. The roller bearing assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the roller bearing assembly is a thrust roller bearing assembly comprising first and second axially opposed raceway members or only one of them and wherein at least the raceway surface of one of the first and second raceway members is subjected to the induction hardening and tempering.
5. The roller bearing assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the raceway surface of the raceway member has an effective hardened layer depth in which the induction hardening is performed, said depth of the hardened layer being so chosen as to be smaller than the plate thickness of the raceway member.
6. The roller bearing assembly as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the raceway member is prepared from the steel plate containing carbon in a quantity not lower than 0.4%.